

### REMARKS

Claims 23 to 46 are pending in this application of which claims 23, 31 and 39 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the abstract and the claims. As shown above, Applicants have rewritten the Abstract and presented new claims for examination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

Turning to the art rejections, claims 1 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Choi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0004699). As shown above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 to 22 and written new claims to define the invention more clearly. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 is directed to a method that includes sending a query from a graphical user interface to a hardware configuration database. The query requests information located within a simulation model. The hardware configuration database includes locations of hardware devices. The hardware devices represents functional processes. The method also includes searching the functional processes to locate the information and directly accessing the information in the simulation model from the graphical user interface without assistance from the hardware configuration database.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 23. In particular, Choi does not disclose or suggest directly accessing the information in the simulation model without assistance from the hardware configuration database.

In this regard, Choi describes a system that enables a user to design and use an Integrated Circuit simulation model without having access to confidential simulation information contained within the simulation model (see paragraph [0007] of Choi). Moreover, Choi indicates that a simulation model is not viewable or accessible by user 102, as the user 102 cannot access the simulation model through the secure interface 106 (see paragraph [0020] of Choi). Therefore, Choi does not disclose or suggest directly accessing the information in the simulation model without assistance from the hardware configuration model. To the contrary, Choi teaches away from directly accessing the simulation model.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the art rejection.

Claims 31 and 38 roughly correspond to claim 23. Accordingly, claims 31 and 38 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 23.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this

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paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 10559-608001.

Respectfully submitted,

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